

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

TO THE

Cannock Urban District Council

For the Year 1910.



HEDNESFORD:

Evans' The Printers, "Advertiser" Office.

1911.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29090787>

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the District during the year 1910.

The number of births registered is 950, which includes ^{Births.} 513 males and 437 females, and, calculated on an approximately estimated population of 27,000 to mid-summer, 1910, gives a ratio of 35·18 per 1,000 per annum, as against 35·4 for 1909, and 39 for 1908.

The natural increase of population is 581, as against 509 for 1909, and 622 for 1908.

The total mean birth rate for the past 10 years is 36·37, as against 37·4 for 1909, and 38·2 for 1908.

In the various reports submitted to the Council throughout the past year, the birth rates are exhibited as follows, viz. :—

Feb.	March	April	June	July
40·5	47	30·8	32·2	33·5

Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 3, '11
35·7	39·6	37	35·2	41

The birthrate is lower, I believe, than it ever has been with the exception of 1907, when it was 33·7. The decline in the mean birth rate for the past ten years shows that this district is sharing in the general decline of births, and there is no doubt that amongst the chief factors of causation can be mentioned a shirking of and a shrinkage from parental responsibilities—in the one case, indefensible often, because due to selfish fears of restriction of leisure and amusement; in the other, defensible often, because due to poverty and bad trade.

Deaths. The number of deaths registered for the year 1910 is 369 which, on a similar calculation, gives a ratio of 13·6, as against 15·8 for 1909, and 15 for 1908.

The number of deaths of non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the district is 16, and the number of deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the district is 17, the nett deaths belonging to the district being 370, and the corrected death rate 13·7, as against 15·3 for 1909, and 14·6 for 1908.

The proportionate deathrate at all ages and from all causes, in the three wards of the district is approximately as follows:—

CANNOCK WARD	...	...	...	13·4
HEDNESFORD WARD	...	..	...	13·7
CHADSMOOR WARD	...	...	...	13·98

The total mean death rate from all causes for the past 10 years is 15·3, as against 15·7 for 1909, and 15·9 for 1908; the mean death rate from Zymotic Disease during the past 10 years being 1·5, as against 1·7 for 1909 and 1908.

The subjoined table will also be of interest as showing the various death rates at periods throughout the past year.

Feb.	March	April	June	July
21·5	12·5	16	13·1	15
Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 3, '11
9·25	13·6	20·5	13·6	13

It is gratifying to record that with the exception of 1907, when the rate was 13·1, the death rate is, I believe, the lowest ever recorded in this district.

Improved sanitation, lessened infantile mortality, and a small Zymotic death rate have entered largely into the reduction.

With regard to the comparative death rates in each ward, they are lower than in the preceding year and at the same time show no unfavourable comparison between any of the three wards.

The subjoined table shows the number of births and Births & Deaths deaths with their respective rates for the 10 years, 1901-1910, viz:—

TOTAL BIRTHS FOR YEARS:—

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
	893	981	887	919	897
<i>ratio...</i>	37·2	40·8	37	38·2	37·3

TOTAL BIRTHS FOR YEARS:—

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
	923	843	1013	920	950
<i>ratio...</i>	37	33·7	39	35·4	35·18

TOTAL DEATHS FOR YEARS:—

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
	403	402	351	387	404
<i>ratio...</i>	16·8	16·75	14·6	16·1	16·8

TOTAL DEATHS FOR YEARS:—

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
	373	329	391	411	369
<i>ratio...</i>	14·9	13·1	15	15·8	13·6

Deaths under
One Year.

The total number of deaths under one year is 92, as against 124 in the preceding year, giving a ratio of 3·4, as against 4·7 for 1909, and 4·9 for 1908.

The mortality per 1000 births is 96·8, or 9·6 per cent, as against 13·4 p.c. for 1909, and 12·7 for 1908.

Out of 92 deaths 40 occurred under one month, 23 being under one week old, 11 between one and two weeks, three between two and three weeks, and three between three and four weeks old.

Ten uncertified deaths occurred under one year, as against two in the preceding year, five occurring under one week old, and five at ages ranging from one to eight months old.

The percentage of infantile mortality calculated on the deaths at all ages, is 24·9, as against 30·2 for 1909, and 33·8 for 1908.

The relative infantile mortality per 1,000, based on the approximate population of each ward is as follows, viz:—

CANNOCK WARD	...	...	3·1
HEDNESFORD WARD	...	...	3·02
CHADSMOOR WARD	...	...	4·02

The following table gives the incidence of infantile mortality in the respective wards of the district: viz. :—

Cause of Death.	Cannock Ward.	Hednesford Ward.	Chadsmoor Ward.	Total.
Influenza	...	1	—	1
Measles	2	—	1	3
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	1
Diarrhoea	2	1	1	4
Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	—	1	—	1
Premature Birth	8	6	6	20
Pneumonia	1	1	3	5
Bronchitis	1	3	2	6
Laryngitis	—	1	—	1
Congenital Defects	3	3	3	9
Convulsions	2	—	2	4
Debility	6	5	11	22
Tabes Mesenterica	—	1	—	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	1	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	—	1	1	2
Suffocation (overlying)	—	—	1	1
Other Causes	5	1	4	10
Total	30	26	36	92

The number of deaths of illegitimate infants during the year 1910 is nine, as against six in the preceding year.

Subjoined are particulars of deaths, viz. —

1. CONVULSIONS, age 16 days, in the Chadsmoor Ward.
2. DEBILITY, three cases.
 - (a)—Age two months, in the Cannock Ward (uncertified).
 - (b)—Age six months, in the Hednesford Ward.
 - (c)—Age two months, in the Chadsmoor Ward.
3. PREMATURE BIRTH, two cases.
 - (a)—Age 15 days, Hednesford Ward.
 - (b)—Age 29 days, Chadsmoor Ward.
- 4.—BRONCHITIS, five months, Chadsmoor Ward.
- 5.—PNEUMONIA, two months, Chadsmoor Ward.
- 6.—OTHER CAUSES, four months, Chadsmoor Ward.

The rate per 1000 births is lower by 37 than in 1909, and is I believe the lowest ever recorded for this district. The comparative rates for each Ward show that the Chadsmoor Ward has improved greatly when compared with the preceding year.

In the above table it will be noticed that 22 deaths come under the cause classed as "debility." Several of these are certified as "debility from birth." Debility, prematurity, and congenital defects claim more than 50 per cent. of the infantile death roll, and there is no evidence as yet of any improvement. So long as early and improvident marriages continue, so long will these factors of causation continue.

The total number of deaths is 41, as against 50 in 1909, and 46 in 1908. The ratio per 1,000 is 1.5 as against 1.9 in 1909, and 1.7 in 1908. Deaths from
One to Five Yrs

Included amongst the deaths were three from Measles, two from Scarlatina, one from Enteric Fever, one from Diarrhoea, three from Enteritis, three from Tuberculous Disease, fourteen from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and two from Accident.

Deaths from
Disease.

Deaths from the various diseases were as follows, viz. :—

Small-pox

SMALL POX.—None.

Measles.

MEASLES.—Six deaths occurred as against 21 in 1909, five being in the Cannock Ward, and one in the Chadsmoor Ward. The ratio per 1,000 is .2 as against .8 in 1909.

A small outbreak of this disease occurred in Bridgtown and Cannock during June and July. The Walsall Road Infants' School attendance was somewhat affected, but the percentage of school attendance was too high (82) to warrant school closure. Class closure would have been carried out, but it so happened that each class in the Infants' School claimed members suffering from this disease, and as the outbreak quickly subsided no further action was necessary. A few isolated cases of the disease occurred in the Chadsmoor Ward in the Autumn, and in the Cannock Ward in December.

I may state here that the Education Committee of the Staffordshire County Council arranged in April last a Conference at Stafford of Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers to consider the joint memorandum of the senior Medical Officers of the Local Government Board and Board of Education on "Closure of and exclusion from School," and to determine a scheme workable and compliable with the code, and at the same time securing uniformity of procedure, especially in instances where the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer are not one and the same person.

The following resolutions were passed at the Conference, viz. :—

1.—"In order to provide for the putting into operation of the section in the code dealing with the closure of and the exclusion of children from schools, on the lines of the memorandum prepared jointly by the Medical Officers of the Local Government Board and the Board of Education, it is desirable that a conveniently workable scheme should be devised to secure co-operation between the public health and school authorities."

2.—"That having regard to the circumstances in this county, it would appear that some plan should be devised by which the Medical Officers of Health shall at once be in a position to take advantage of articles 45 (b) and 53 (b) rather than act under article 57."

3.—“That the various head teachers should be directed to notify to the Medical Officer of Health daily the names and addresses of any children absent because of suspected infectious diseases.”

4.—“That the following be appointed a sub-committee to frame specific proposals in accordance with the above resolutions, and to take the needful steps for bringing them into operation:—Dr. Fernie, Dr. Biggam, Dr. Harthill, Dr. Codd, Dr. Fox, Dr. Steele, Dr. Reid, Dr. Priestley, Dr. Tibbetts.”

In this district I hold the dual office of Medical officer of Health, and School Medical Officer, and am in constant daily touch, not only with the various head teachers of the district but also with the School Attendance Officers. With the latter I also hold a special weekly conference. Information derived in this way and through the Notification of Diseases Act enables me to take prompt action against the spread of infectious and contagious disease.

Two deaths occurred out of a total number of 106 cases, *Scarlatina*, the percentage being 1·8, as against two deaths in 1909 out of a total number of 63 cases, with a percentage of 3·1.

One case occurred in the Hednesford Ward, the other in the Chadsmoor Ward.

With regard to the incidence of this disease, Rawnsley and Heath Hayes were the districts chiefly affected in the first half of the year. In July 19 cases occurred in and around Cannock. The last quarter of the year exhibited the least number of cases, the Cannock Ward being the least affected.

The case mortality is 1·8 per cent., as against 3·1 per cent. in 1909.

During the course of investigation in these various cases untrapped drains and a foul defective ashpit were found in Arthur Street, Wimblebury. With reference to the incidence of disease in families, the proportion is less than 2 per house, as against a nearly similar proportion in 1909.

Three deaths were recorded, as against seven in 1909. *Whooping Cough*.
One death occurred in each ward.

This disease was rather prevalent in Heath Hayes during May and June. The Heath Hayes School percentage of attendance was lessened in consequence. I directed that no children in an infected house should return to the Infants' School until after the lapse of six weeks from the date of onset of the last case, and that no patient to return to school until a clear fortnight since the last "whoop." Scholars in the Upper Department who had no history of whooping cough and were contacts were also excluded from school.

Diphtheria and
Membranous
Croup.
Croup.

None, as against four in 1909.

None, as against none in the preceding year.

Enteric Fever.

Two deaths were recorded, as against none in the preceding year. They both occurred in the Hednesford Ward.

In the two fatalities recorded one was an imported case, and in the other instance although strict investigation was made, no local clue was found to account for the disease.

In another case notified, the patient's illness was stated to have arisen at first through eating tinned fish, but there was no tangible proof of this, and there were no local insanitary conditions to account for the trouble.

Epidemic
Influenza.

Six deaths were recorded, as against 11 in 1909, and 14 in 1908. They all occurred in the Hednesford Ward and were complicated with pneumonia chiefly.

This disease was prevalent in the early part of the year and in one instance proved fatal to a child between two and three months old.

Diarrhoea.

Eight deaths were recorded as against ten in 1909, two being in the Cannock Ward, and three in each of the other Wards. Five of these deaths occurred under 5 years of age.

Enteritis.

Seven deaths occurred as against three in 1909, four being in the Hednesford Ward, two in the Chadsmoor Ward, and one in the Workhouse. Five out of the seven deaths occurred under 5 years.

Puerperal
Fever.

Two deaths were recorded, as against none in 1909. They happened in Heath Hayes, in the Chadsmoor Ward, and were both under 25 years.

We had gone through nearly the whole year without a single case being notified when, unfortunately, the record was broken by the occurrence of two fatal cases in Heath Hayes, the respective ages were 24 and 27. They were both attended by the same midwife, who was duly suspended for a month. The midwife's clothes were first soaked in a strong disinfectant and afterwards passed through Thresh's Disinfector, on the Council's premises.

These two cases occurring almost at the same time would indicate extreme virulence of the contagion, and under the circumstances the County Medical Officer found it necessary to report to the Local Supervising Authority.

With regard to the present administration of the Midwives' Act I gave an outline of its working in my last Annual Report.

One death occurred, as against none in 1909.

Erysipelas.

Eighteen deaths were recorded, as against 22 in 1909, and 23 in 1908. Three of the deaths occurred under five years, and eleven at ages over 25 years.

Phthisis.

Four occurred in the Cannock Ward, four in the Hednesford Ward, six in the Chadsmoor Ward, and four in the Workhouse.

Included amongst these deaths were four coal minors, one commercial clerk, one colliery clerk and two labourers.

Three deaths were recorded, as against nine in 1909. One death occurred in the Cannock Ward, one in the Hednesford Ward, and one in the Workhouse.

Other Tuberculous Diseases.

Twenty-three deaths occurred, as against 30 in 1909. They were distributed as follows, viz.:—Seven in the Cannock Ward, four in the Hednesford Ward, three in the Chadsmoor Ward, and nine in the Workhouse.

Cancer.

Fifty-nine deaths were recorded, as against 62 in 1909, and 57 in 1908—the death rate being 2.1 per 1,000. Eight cases occurred in the Cannock Ward, 26 in the Hednesford Ward, 22 in the Chadsmoor Ward, and three in the Workhouse.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

The subjoined table gives the mortality for the past ten years, viz. :—

			1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Under 5	...	45	35	36	38	44	29	38	32	29	26	
Over 5	...	35	44	29	27	28	44	25	25	33	33	
Total		...	80	79	65	65	72	73	63	57	62	59

Pleurisy. None, as against one in 1909.

Other Respiratory Diseases. Eight deaths were recorded as against four in 1909. Five occurred in the Hednesford Ward and three in the Chadsmoor Ward.

Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver. Two deaths were registered, as against six in the preceding year. They occurred in the Chadsmoor Ward.

Premature Birth. Twenty deaths were recorded, as against 19 in 1909. Eight occurred in the Cannock Ward, six in the Hednesford Ward, and six in the Chadsmoor Ward.

Diseases and Accidents of Parturition. Three cases were registered, as against a similar number in 1909. Two occurred in the Cannock Ward, and one in the Chadsmoor Ward.

Heart Disease. Twenty-eight cases occurred, as against 32 in 1909, and 27 in 1908. They were distributed as follows, viz. :—Eleven in the Cannock Ward, thirteen in the Hednesford Ward, three in the Chadsmoor Ward, and one in the Workhouse.

Accidents. Fourteen cases were recorded, as against thirteen in 1909, and ten in 1908. Five were colliery accidents, as against six recorded in 1909. The death ratio per 1000 is '5, as against a similar ratio in the preceding year.

Suicides. One case occurred, as against one in 1909.

Zymotic Disease. Twenty-one deaths were recorded, as against 44 in 1909, and 28 in 1908.

The death rate is '77 per 1000, as against '47 in 1909, and '407 in 1908.

The subjoined table shows the death and death rates from Zymotic Disease during the past ten years, viz.:—

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Small Pox	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	3	17	12	0	33	0	9	9	21	6
Scarlatina	29	11	5	1	5	0	2	2	2	2
Diphtheria and Membranous	6	2	3	4	2	3	4	3	4	0
Whooping Cough	10	3	3	12	3	19	1	4	7	3
Typhoid	0	4	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2
Diarrhœa	15	8	10	8	12	18	11	9	10	8
Total	63	45	33	29	58	40	27	28	44	21
Ratio	2.6	1.8	1.3	1.2	2.4	1.6	1.08	1.07	1.7	.77

It is pleasant to be able to record the fact that not only has the Zymotic death rate lessened more than 50 per cent. when compared with the preceding year, but also that I believe it is the lowest ever recorded for the district.

Nineteen deaths were recorded, as against four in 1909, and 15 in 1908. Included amongst the deaths were three from premature birth, one from bronchitis, one from heart disease, and one from enteritis. Eight of the deaths occurred under one year, and four from 65 and upwards. Ten of the cases belonged to the Cannock Ward, two to the Hednesford Ward, and seven to the Chadsmoor Ward. Uncertified Deaths.

This is an unsatisfactory increase, the unfortunate feature of which is that 10 out of the 19 were under 12 months old, one of them being an illegitimate infant.

The total number of cases notified under this act is 135, as against 88 in 1909, and 171 in 1908. Notification of Diseases Act.

Details of the various diseases notified are as follows:—
viz.:—

The number of cases notified is 106 in 89 houses, as against 63 in 48 houses in 1909, and 117 in 91 houses in 1908. Scarlatina.

The percentage of scarlatinal notifications on the sum total of diseases notified is 78.5, as against 71.6 in 1909.

The cases were distributed as follows, viz:—

CANNOCK WARD.—26 cases in 20 houses, as against 37 cases in 28 houses in 1909.

HEDNESFORD WARD.—36 cases in 34 houses, as against 16 cases in 11 houses in 1909.

CHADSMOOR WARD.—44 cases in 35 houses, as against 10 cases in 9 houses in 1909.

Two fatal cases were recorded out of the 106 notified, as against two cases out of 63 notified in 1909.

Diphtheria including Membranous Croup. Two cases were notified as against nine in 1909, and twelve in 1908. They both occurred in the Cannock Ward.

Fortunately these diseases may be classed as comparatively rare in this district, the mean average for the past ten years for the whole district being about 3. In one instance in Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes, untrapped drains and cellars flooded with stagnant water were discovered

Erysipelas. Twenty-two cases were notified, as against thirteen in 1909, and twenty-one in 1908. Nine occurred in the Cannock Ward, six in the Hednesford Ward, six in the Chadsmoor Ward, and one in the Workhouse.

Enteric Fever. Three cases were notified, as against one in 1909. Two occurred in the Chadsmoor Ward, and one in the Hednesford Ward.

Puerperal Fever. Two cases, both fatal, were notified in Heath Hayes in the Chadsmoor Ward, as against one case notified in 1909.

PauperSickness. Included in the fortnightly returns by the Clerk to the Guardians of the Cannock Union of new cases of pauper sickness were the following, viz:—

CANNOCK WARD.—Five cases of cancer, one of scabies, two of phthisis, and three of measles.

HEDNESFORD WARD.—Three cases of cancer, two of influenza, five of diarrhoea, and one of starvation.

CHADSMOOR WARD.—One case of cancer, two of phthisis, one of influenza, one of gastro-enteritis, five of diarrhoea, three of scarlatina, and one of chorea.

WORKHOUSE.—Five cases of cancer, six of scabies, nine of phthisis, one of influenza, five of diarrhoea, one of chorea, two of syphilis, and three of whooping-cough.

Mr. Spooner, the Vaccination Officer, has obliged me with the following particulars of vaccination from 1st July, 1909, to 30th June, 1910, viz. :—

	1910.	1909.
Births	917	as against 973
Vaccinated	472	„ 620
Certificates of objection...	361	„ 265
Died before Vaccination	65	„ 71
Insusceptible	2	„ 1
Removals	11	„ 13
Postponements	3	„ 1
Not Vaccinated	3	„ 2

The number of illegitimate births for the year ending 31st December, 1910, is 24, as against 30 in the preceding year. Apropos of exemption certificates, when compared with 1909, it will be noted by a glance at the above table that there is unfortunately a large increase.

Mr. Cole, Assistant Overseer and Collector has obliged me with the following information viz. :—

	1910	1909	1908
CANNOCK WARD	1931	as against 1885	as against 1842
HEDNESFORD WARD	1718	„ 1680	„ 1640
CHADSMOOR WARD	1788	„ 1739	„ 1711
Total	5437	5304	5193

Due attention has been given to the duties required of me by this Act.

In one instance during the course of my inspection among outworkers, I found a member in the family (not an outworker) suffering from chicken pox. The work was prohibited and not resumed until the house was free from infection. The material, which was of a finishing nature, was duly disinfected through Thresh's disinfector.

Subjoined is a table of the work done in this district during the past year viz. :—

- 1.—INSPECTIONS.—Workshops 30 Written Notices 3.
- 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.—Want of Cleanliness 3. Remedied
4. Referred to H.M. Inspector 1.

Other nuisances 6. Remedied 1.

Unsuitable or defected Sanitary accommodation 1.

Total defects 10. Remedied 5.

3.—HOMEWORK.—List (sending twice in the year) 1.
Wearing apparel.

(a) No. of Inspections of outworkers' premises 22.

(b) Notices served 0.

(c) Outwork in infected premises 1. Prohibition 1.
Remedied 1.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS (including 18 bakehouses)
48.

5.—OTHER MATTERS:—

(a) Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories 1

(b) Notified by H.M. Inspector 1.

(c) Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector
1.

(d) Other matters 6.

Meat Inspection This has been carried out regularly and systematically by the Sanitary Inspector who holds a special certificate for this purpose. In eight instances unsound meat has been voluntarily surrendered and the same condemned by a magistrate. In one instance there was a seizure of unsound meat followed by prosecution and conviction for exposing for sale.

Overcrowding. Twenty-one Inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector with regard to this evil, which is a growing one, and where remedied often crops up again and is repeated. Sufficient house accommodation is necessary to ensure a satisfactory abatement.

Bakehouses. During a course of inspection of bakehouses in the district I had, in one instance, to report upon surrounding defective drainage conditions, necessitating a temporary closure until these were remedied.

Housing of the Working Classes Act. With regard to this Act, I have along with the Sanitary Inspector, made inspections in the Cannock Ward, but so far we have found nothing to warrant me in advising closing orders.

During the year I have paid regular visits to the Farm. Sewage Farm.
 Samples of the effluents were taken on the occasion of each visit and analysed, with the result that they came within the permissible limit of impurity for entering a stream. The Farm Bailiff has done his best with a farm showing signs of overtaxing, on account of a too limited filtration area. Some of the land filters have been cleaned and turned. Also slag has been taken out of one of the new filters, and new put in. The scheme of additional disposal works proposed by the Surveyor is for the time being in abeyance.

Last December I had occasion to make enquires with Water Supply.
 regard to the quality of water supplied to a considerable portion of Cannock by the Conduit Water Trust. The source of supply is collected in a Tank built on the Uplands near Heath Hayes, and is of excellent purity. Several samples of the water were taken in Cannock, and analysed and found to contain sufficient organic impurity to necessitate temporary suspension. Evidence was afterwards found of an accidental overflow of Sewage into a brook near source of supply due to excessive rain floods. Steps were immediately taken to remedy matters, and the water was soon restored to its original purity. I took samples of this water again in the early part of the year, and found that it continued to be pure.

During 1910, the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company supplied 174 houses, the Skating Rink, one Church, one Theatre, one Bakery, and The "Public Rooms," Cannock. There were also laid 5,300 yards of 6in. main to Cannock Wood, 40 yards of 2in. and 700 yards of 3in. main in Cannock and Hednesford.

A Conference, arranged by the County Medical Officer, Ophthalmia
Neonatorum.
 was held at Wolverhampton last November on the prevention of blindness from this disease, which is due to the infrequent cleansing of the eyes of the newly-born during the first fortnight. It is estimated that practically 40 per cent. of the total number of cases of blindness is due simply and solely to this neglect.

At this Conference, which I attended, extremely interesting statistics were given by Mr. Greatbatch, Chairman of the North Staffordshire Blind and Deaf Institution, and Mr. Folker, Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Institution, laid stress on the fact, that practically every case if taken early enough could be cured by simply cleansing the child's eyes frequently with sterilised water.

A resolution was passed to the effect "That this meeting is of opinion that the disease known as Ophthalmia Neonatorum, should be added to the list of notifiable diseases under the 'Infectious Diseases' (Notification) Act, 1889,' and that provision should be made by the Public Health Authorities for ensuring that every case receives proper medical help and nursing, under Section 133 of the Public Health Act, 1875. Also, that it is desirable that the Notification of Births' Act, 1907, should be adopted."

With reference to the disease in this district, I may state that cases are not infrequent, and I have come across some which have ended in permanent blindness.

The danger of permanent blindness in these cases can be obviated by adding this disease to the list of diseases compulsorily notifiable in this district. On receipt of a notification, steps could there and then be taken to prevent further mischief in a disease that generally runs an acute and rapid course.

Conclusion,

I append the Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year 1910, also the tables required by the Local Government Board, and beg to remain, gentlemen,

Yours obedient Servant,

THE POPLARS,

J. N. PHILLIPS.

HEDNESFORD,

MARCH, 1911.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

For the Year ending December 31st, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Eighth Annual Report, viz. : that for the year ending December 31st, 1910.

CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

The contents of ashpits, privies and dustbins are dealt with by the Council's Workmen.

In this work there have been five horses and five teams of men constantly employed, in order to cope with the large quantity of refuse, which is produced in this district.

During the year 11,633 loads of refuse have been removed from 10,661 houses, representing 5,542 ashpits.

The total number of houses in the district is 5,437, an increase of 133 on last year.

The question of refuse tips at Chadsmoor and Hednesford will have to be taken in hand (by the Council) at an early date, as the one at Hednesford is now full up. Another temporary tip has been secured at Hednesford, but this will not last many months.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

One hundred and sixty-three preliminary notices have been served upon owners of property, to remedy sanitary defects discovered in the course of my inspections.

The premises referred to in the notices were subsequently revisited, 489 reinspections having been made; 50 letters were written to owners urging compliance with notices; 91 statutory notices being subsequently served by your orders.

The execution of the necessary works required by these notices have been much facilitated by interviews I have had with owners, agents or builders, either at the properties concerned, or at my office, most owners manifesting a desire to comply with our requirements. 81 houses have been drained and connected to the main sewer. 460 yards of new glazed stoneware pipes have been laid, also 119 new glazed stoneware gullies have been provided and fixed, 25 choked drains have been opened and cleansed, many of these being relaid, representing 73 houses, 21 catchpits have been dispensed with, and glazed stoneware gullies fixed to the drains, 23 defective drains have been repaired or relaid.

In 80 instances, dilapidated and sanitary privies have been repaired or rebuilt, and in 35 cases, open ashpits have been covered in, 66 new privies and covered ashpits have been substituted for dilapidated and insanitary ones, 56 ashpits have been repaired, 48 water closets have been substituted for foul privies, and new latrines have been provided at West Hill Boys' and Girls' Schools. 25 dust bins have been provided in place of ashpits; 32 stoneware sanitary sinks have been fixed in place of insanitary brick sinks, and one new urinal.

There are 24 Registered and 9 Licensed Slaughter Houses in the Cannock District. The inspection of these has received my attention, much time having been given to their supervision.

The number of visits paid to Slaughter Houses has been 750, in addition to 487 visits to Butchers' Shops, and 50 visits to markets.

The approximate amount of meat coming under my observation is as follows:—1,647 sides of beef, 1,570 carcasses of mutton and lamb, 186 carcasses of veal, and 1,987 slaughtered pigs.

The amount of diseased and unsound meat which has been surrendered being 530 lbs. of beef, 176 lbs. of pork, 96 lbs. of livers, 48 lbs. of fish, 37 lbs. of mutton, and 380 lbs. of offals. These were satisfactorily disposed of.

One application was made for a new slaughter house licence, which was granted for one year under the P.H.A.A.A., 1890, and 8 applications for renewals were granted for a similar period.

Sixty-four visits of inspection were made to the Knackeryard. These premises are kept comparatively clean, taking into consideration the nature of trade carried on therein.

PROSECUTIONS.

It was necessary to take proceedings against a farmer for slaughtering on Unlicensed Premises, and he was subsequently fined £2 and costs.

Proceedings were also taken against a butcher for having diseased meat on her premises, and she was fined £5 and costs.

There are two Common Lodging Houses, and these have been regularly inspected, special attention being given to cleansing, limewashing and sanitary arrangements, 96 inspections have been made during the year. The houses are kept clean, and no occasion has arisen for the institution of proceedings, through the contravention of the bye-laws. No cases of infectious disease have occurred.

One hundred and eighteen inspections of School sanitary conveniences have been made during the year, and I am pleased to report that they are kept comparatively clean.

Forty inspections of Bakehouses and 35 inspections of Workshops have been made during the year. The nuisances found have been dealt with, and most of them abated, whilst others are in hand.

CANAL BOATS.

Number of canal boats inspected	...	...	86
„ „ infringements...	...	...	9
„ water vessel	...	...	1
Overcrowding	...	...	1
Absence of certificate	...	...	5
Certificate not indentifying owner of boat	...	...	2
Lettering and numbering	...	...	—
Females improperly occupying	...	...	—
Partition separating sexes	...	...	—
Painting	...	...	—
Dilapidations	...	...	—
Removal of bilge water	...	...	—
Refusal of admittance to Inspector	...	...	—
Notification of infectious diseases	...	..	—
			104

On the whole the Cabins are kept clean. The boats visiting this district are worked chiefly by men in pairs, so that one boat is being loaded, while the other is taken to its destination.

There were 62 boats worked by men only, and 24 by a man and wife, and one or more children.

I have given special attention to the condition of the cabins as to cleanliness and ventilation. With regard to the health of the occupants, I find them comparatively clean and healthy, with no evidence of any serious illness or infectious disease.

The other details of the work of my department are tabulated on the accompanying tables, I have to again thank the Committtee for the support they have given me in the work of my department.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN TURTON.

TABLE I.

No. of Ashpits emptied during the year	...	5542
" Loads of Refuse removed	...	11633
" Houses from which Refuse has been removed	...	10661
" Visits to Slaughter Houses during the year	...	750
" Knackeryards	...	64
" Butchers' Shops	...	487
" Markets	...	50
" Bakehouses	...	24
" Workshops	...	36
" Cowsheds and Dairies	...	37
" Common Lodging Houses	...	96
" Schools	...	120
" Premises respecting notices and work in progress during the year	...	489
Total		29989

TABLE II.

No. of Preliminary Notices served	...	163
" Statutory	...	91
" Legal Proceedings	...	2
" Letters written to Owners <i>re</i> Nuisances	...	50
" Houses Disinfected	...	56
" Schools	...	2
" Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	4
" Samples of Water condemned	...	—
		69
" Houses supplied with S.S. Water	...	5
Total		442

TABLE III.

	Notices served.	Houses in connection with notices.
Insufficient or defective drainage	28	93
Choked drains	18	59
Foul, wet and dilapidated privy middens	60	215
Foul, wet open ashpits	23	76
Insufficient closet accommodation	3	8
Defective W.C. connections	—	—
Water Closet without water supply	1	8

		Notices served.	Houses in connection with notices.
Overcrowded Houses ...	...	5	5
Offensive accumulations ...	...	7	7
Dairy Cowsheds cleansed without notices ...	...	—	21
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance ...	...	5	5
Fouling of Sanitary conveniences ...	...	—	—
Stagnant Water in cellars...	...	1	4
Choked Water Closets —	...	2	4
Untrapped Drains ...	...	9	31
Defective and Insanitary Scullery Sinks	...	8	26
Insufficient Ashpit accommodation ...	...	6	19
New Closets and Ashpits ...	...	7	15
Other Nuisances ...	...	10	46
Dirty Houses ...	...	3	12
Total ...	...	214	654

TABLE IV.

Sanitary improvements carried out in the district
in pursuance of inspections made and notice served.

Absence of insufficient drainage of premises, the same have been properly drained and connected to the main sewer ...	...	...	81
Defective drains relaid or repaired ...	...	...	23
Defective drains trapped ...	...	...	17
Chocked drains unstopped ...	...	...	25
Insanitary privies and ashpits repaired	...	...	80
New closets and ashpits ...	...	...	66
Water closets substituted for privies	...	...	48
Stoneware sanitary sinks substituted for brick sinks ...	...	...	32
Dirty houses cleansed ...	...	...	4
Ashpits repaired ...	...	...	56
New School latrines ...	...	...	2
Washhouses rebuilt ...	...	...	6
Stagnant water in cellars removed	...	...	4
Chocked water closets opened	...	...	6
Other nuisances ...	...	...	10
Open ashpits covered ...	...	...	35
Dustbins substituted for ashpits	...	...	25
Total ...	...	...	520

CAUSE OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1910

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all Ages)				Deaths in Public Institutions
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	Cannock Ward.	Hednesford Ward.	(bads-moor Ward.		
Small-pox	6	3	3					5		1		
Measles	2		2						1	1		
Scarlet fever	3	2	1					1	1	1		
Whooping-cough												
Diphtheria including Membranous croup												
Croup												
Fever { Typhus Enteric Other cont'd.	2		1		1				2			
Epidemic Influenza	6	1			1	3	1		6			
Cholera												
Plague												
Diarrhœa	8	4	1	1		1	1	2	3	3		
Enteritis	7	2	3	1			1	1	4	2		1
Gastritis												
Puerperal fever	2				2					2		
Erysipelas	1					1		1				1
Phthisis (Pulmonary)	18	1	2	1	3	11		8	4	6		4
Other tuberculous diseases	3	1	1	1				2	1			1
Cancer, malignant diseases	23					11	12	16	4	3		9
Bronchitis	36	6	4	1		4	21	6	18	12		2
Pneumonia	23	6	10			7		5	8	10		1
Pleurisy												
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	8	1	2			4	1		5	3		
Alcoholism	2									2		
Cirrhosis of Liver												
Venerical Diseases												
Premature Birth	20	20						8	6	6		
Diseases & Accidents of parturition	3					3		2		1		
Heart Diseases	28	1		1		16	10	12	13	3		1
Accidents	14	2	2		1	8	1	2	8	4		8
Suicides	1					1			1			
All other causes	154	43	9	6	8	33	55	56	33	65		18
All causes	370	93	41	12	16	103	105	127	118	125		46

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				NO OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At Ages—Years.						Cannock Ward.	Hednesford Ward.	Chadsmoor Ward.	Smallpox Hospital.	Cannock Ward.	Hednesford Ward.	Chadsmoor Ward.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.							
Small-pox	...												
Cholera	...												
Diphtheria (incl'd'g	2		1	1			2						
Membranous croup)	22	2	2	2	4	10	9	6	6	1			
Erysipelas	106	3	36	60	4	3	26	36	44				
Scarlet fever	...												
Typhus fever	...												
Enteric fever	3		1		1	1	1	1	2		N	O	N
Relapsing fever	...												
Continued fever	...				1	1			2				
Puerperal fever	2												
Plague	...												
							W		H				
Totals	135	5	40	63	10	15	37	43	54	1			

No Isolation Hospital is provided except for Small-pox, and is provided conjointly by the Cannock Urban and Rural District Councils.

Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation } Small Pox Hospital, Chadsmoor Ward. Total available beds, 12.

Cannock Urban District Council.

FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths, at all ages belonging to Dt.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1000 hths.	Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	23000	886	38.5	129	145	410	17.8	53				
1901	24000	893	37.2	143	160	403	16.8	39	14	6	395	16.4
1902	24000	981	40.8	130	132	402	16.75	44	16	16	402	16.75
1903	24000	887	37	111	125	351	14.6	36	14	14	351	14.6
1904	24000	918	38.2	127	138	387	16.1	46	14	20	393	16.3
1905	24000	897	37.3	127	141	404	16.8	46	19	10	395	16.4
1906	25000	923	37	112	121	373	14.9	35	13	17	377	15
1907	25000	843	33.7	104	123	329	13.1	45	14	20	335	13.4
1908	26000	1013	39	129	127	391	15	58	27	17	381	14.6
1909	26000	920	35.4	124	134	411	15.8	58	26	15	400	15.3
Averages for years 1900-1909												
	24500	916.1	37.4	123.6	134.6	386.1	15.8					
1910	28000	950	33.9	92	96.8	369	13.1	46	16	17	370	13.2

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 8,009.
 Total population at all ages, 23,994; Number of inhabited houses, 4,592; Average number of persons per house, 5. At census of 1901

I.	I.	III.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities of the District.
Cannock Union Workhouse.	Wolverhampton Infirmary. Burntwood Asylum	Hednesford Accident Home. Cannock Union Workhouse.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—Yes.

J. NORTHEY PHILLIPS,
 MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

March, 1911.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES.	18	11	3	3	35	8	12	3	2	3	4	6	2	4	1	2	82
Certified	5				5	1	1	1				1	1				10
Uncertified																	
Common																	
1.— Infectious Diseases.					0		1										1
Influenza																	
Small-pox																	
Chicken-pox					0				1		1				1		3
Measles																	
Scarlet Fever																	
Diphtheria: Including																	
Membranous Croup					0					1							1
Whooping Cough																	
2.— Diarrhœal Diseases.																	
Diarrhœa, all forms		2			2		1							1			4
Euteritis																	
(not Tuberculous) }																	
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh }					0	1											1
3.—Wasting Diseases.																	
Premature Birth	14	3	1	1	19	1											20
Congenital Defects	6	2			8		1										9
Injury at Birth																	
Want of Breast Milk																	
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus }	1	1	1	1	4	5	7	1		1	1	2			1		22
4.— Tuberculous Diseases																	
Tuberculous Meningitis																	
Tuberculous Peritonitis }					0												1
Tuberculosis Mesenterica }																	
Other Tuberculous Diseases }					0		1										1
5.— Other Causes.																	
Erysipelas																	
Syphilis																	
Rickets																	
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) }					0					1					1		2
Convulsions	1		1		2		1					1					4
Bronchitis		1			1	1	2		1		1						6
Laryngitis					0								1				1
Pneumonia					0		1		1		2		1				5
Suffocation, overlying	1				1												1
Other causes		2		1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2		1				10
	23	11	3	3	40	9	13	4	2	3	4	7	3	4	1	2	92

Population, estimated to middle of 1910, 28,000.

Births in the year—Legitimate, 926; Illegitimate, 24.

Deaths in the year—Legitimate, 83; Illegitimate, 9

Deaths from all Causes at all ages, 369